

Did you know?

The Gateway Arch is an integral part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial and the iconic image of St. Louis, Missouri. It stands 630 feet (192 m) tall, and is 630 feet (192 m) wide at its base, making it the tallest monument in the United States.

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DCC election schedule likely on Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission will announce next Sunday the schedule for long overdue election to Dhaka City Corporation slated for May 31 unless the government clarifies its stance on the poll.

Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday told this to journalists on the EC

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Prayer Timing		
April 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-21	6-24
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

PRE-BUDGET DISCUSSION

Economists suggest energy solution

Area-wise subsidy, incentives for small, medium enterprises for 2yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Economists in a pre-budget discussion have suggested giving area-wise instead of country-wide subsidy and energy incentives to small and medium entrepreneurs for at least next two years.

The economists also urged the government to impose capital gain tax on the banks and city congestion tax to reduce traffic jam. They made the call yesterday at the pre-budget discussion with Finance Minister AMA Muhith held at the Finance Division.

Former finance adviser of the caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan said the government should form a commission to find out why the ADP could not be implemented and suggest remedies.

A large number of entrepreneurs and households are producing electricity due to ongoing power crisis using diesel-run generators, which eat up a huge amount of fuel.

Hafizuddin said the government could consider setting up a diesel-run power plant for the capital.

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Executive Director Mustafizur Rahman said there is no possibility of power deficiency being overcome in next two years as per the government plan.

The government should give energy subsidy to small and medium entrepreneurs for at least two years to make up for the losses incurred due to power crunch.

The government is going to take a big size

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Khaleda for movement to save country from 'tyrant'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said yesterday an anti-government movement has to be launched to change the prevailing "unsteady situation" and protect the country from the grip of the 'tyrant' government.

The leader of the opposition in parliament urged all to unite and prepare for the movement for the sake of future generation.

Khaleda was speaking as chief guest at a teachers' representatives conference, jointly organised by the Shikhhak Karmachari Oikya Jote, Bangladesh Shikhhak Samity and Bangladesh College Shikhhak Samity, and held at Bangabandhu

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Manmohan, Gilani meet Obama

US help sought to tame extremism

AFP, Washington

President Barack Obama on Sunday declared his commitment to long-term ties with both India and Pakistan, walking a fine line as New Delhi sought his help to rein in extremists from its neighbour.

On the eve of a 47-nation summit on nuclear security, Obama met separately with Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh of India and Yusuf Raza Gilani of Pakistan who lead two of the newest members of the club of nuclear weapons states.

US relations with India have warmed markedly in the past decade, with US leaders across the spectrum embracing an alliance with the world's largest democracy. Obama in November honoured Singh with the first state dinner of his presidency.

But the United States also has a growing relationship with Pakistan and the Obama administration has been keen to ease

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

PHOTO: AFP

Sania, Shoaib tie knot early

PTI, Hyderabad

Indian tennis star Sania Mirza and Pakistani cricketer Shoaib Malik tied the knot yesterday, ending days of controversy and drama surrounding their high-profile wedding that took place three days ahead of original schedule.

The 23-year-old Sania and 28-year-old Shoaib

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4 (MORE ON PAGE 17)

Muggers shoot salesman dead

4 women among 7 'abductors' held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of muggers last night gunned down a shop employee at Paikpara in Mirpur in the capital and snatched Tk 7.7 lakh from him.

The deceased was identified as Sajal Mia, 19, an employee of Bithi Enterprise, a scrap metal shop of Kalyanpur.

Three muggers on a motorbike ambushed Sajal and his uncle at Paikpara around

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Tight security for Pahela Baishakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The traditional celebration of Pahela Baishakh, the first day in Bangla calendar, will be heavily policed. Around 12,000 officials will be on patrol in and outside the capital to ensure a trouble-free carnival on Wednesday.

Apart from the regular police forces, Rab will deploy a total of 2,220 forces in the capital and 3,000 elsewhere in the country while DMP will deploy over 6,500 forces in and around Ramna Park, Suhrawardy Udyan, Dhaka University and Dhanmendi Lake areas.

At a press briefing held at Ramna Park on the Pahela Baishakh security issue, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday

SEE PAGE 7 COL 7

OnlinePoll

Do you think the government should develop open pit coal mine in the country considering the present energy crisis?

☐ Yes (89.2%)
☐ No (8.9%)
☐ No Comments (1.9%)

Total votes: 707

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government should give massive subsidy in installing solar panels to encourage people to use solar power?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Happy Bangla New Year

We invite all of you to our **5 Show-Rooms** on **1st of Baishakh**

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Credit Ratings

Credit Rating was done by the Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh Limited (CRAB) on the basis of Audited Financial Statements as on 31.12.2009. The summary of the rating is presented below:

Credit Rating Report (Surveillance Rating)

	Long Term	Short Term
Rating Outstanding (updated 6 April 2010)	AA3 Double A Three (Very Strong Capacity)	ST1 Highest Grade
Validity of Outstanding Rating:	1(one) year	

CRAB has assigned AA3 (Pronounced Double A Three) rating of Pubali Bank Limited in the Long Term and ST1 in the Short Term. This level of rating indicates very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments in both Long Term and Short Term with very low likelihood to be adversely affected by foreseeable events. CRAB performed the present rating assignment based on the Audited Financial Statements of 31 December 2009 and other relevant information. The present rating takes into account, among others, Bank's comfortable capital adequacy, improved asset quality, continued profitability, adequate liquidity and reduction in non-performing assets (NPA) levels to single digit (gross 2.96%).

Pubali Bank Limited was assigned A1 in the Long Term and ST-2 in the short Term by CRAB on April 2009 which had a validity of 1(one) year from the date of rate assigned on the Audited Financial Statements of 31 December 2008.

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This prestigious award was handed over by Donald M. Kendall, co-founder of PepsiCo and Indra Nooyi, Chairman and CEO, PepsiCo to Latifur Rahman, Chairman, Transcom Beverages at Mandarin Oriental, New York City on 25th March 2010.

We are grateful to our millions of consumers in Bangladesh.

We are grateful to our Bangladeshi heritage and winning spirit.

TRANSKOM BEVERAGES LIMITED